
BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES – July 2, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Conry, Duchemin, Musick, Noone, Norris, Valle, Higgins.

Also, Present: Matthew Hall, Manager
Laurie A. Barton Borough Clerk
Leslie Parikh, Attorney

Mayor Higgins led everyone in the flag salute.

Mayor Higgins read the following Statement into the Record:

“The requirements of the ‘Open Public Meetings Law, 1975, Chapter 231’ have been satisfied in that adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the Star Gazette and posted on the Bulletin Board of Borough Hall stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.”

COUNCIL APPEARANCE:

William Shotwell, Grand Ave., inquired about the street sweeper having a schedule. Mr. Shotwell vented his frustration of a neighbor who parks in front of his house where the streetsweeper cannot reach to clear leaves.

Hearing no further public comment, motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to close the audience portion.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0
Motion Carried.

MINUTES

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Valle to approve the meeting minutes of regular meetings; June 18, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Conry, Duchemin, Musick, Noone, Norris, Valle, Higgins.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Motion was made by Valle seconded by Conry to receive and file the following reports:

- Police Department
- Senior Advisory Committee

ROLL CALL: Conry, Duchemin, Musick, Noone, Norris, Valle, Higgins.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to Approve Block Party

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Norris to approve the following block party:

Approval of Block Party-Youmans Avenue

ROLL CALL: Conry, Duchemin, Musick, Noone, Norris, Valle, Higgins.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

ORDINANCES

Motion made by Conry to approve on first reading Ordinance 2019-17 motion seconded by Duchemin. Public Hearing scheduled for August 6, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Conry, Duchemin, Musick, Noone, Norris, Valle, Higgins.

Ayes: 6, Nays: 1
Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE 2019-17
AN ORDINANCE TO MANDATE DIRECT DEPOSIT FOR COMPENSATION
FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON
EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 52:14-15f

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 52:14-15f authorizes local governments to mandate direct deposit for compensation for certain governmental employees effective July 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, N.T.S.A. 52:14-15f permits governing bodies to grant exemptions to the direct deposit requirements on such terms and conditions as they deem necessary; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, as follows:

SECTION 1.

- A. All full-time employees, part-time employees, and elected public officials who receive compensation from the Borough of Washington are mandated to have direct deposit of their compensation as of September 1, 2019 in accordance with NJ.S.A. 52:14-15f.
- B. Municipal employees may request an exemption from the direct deposit requirements of this Ordinance by written request to the Municipal Manager of the Borough of Washington. A decision on such request will be considered by the Borough Manager within seven (7) days of receipt. The Borough Manager may grant an exemption from the requirements of this Ordinance for good cause shown on such terms and conditions as the Borough Manager may deem necessary.

SECTION 2. If any Section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the Section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with or in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption, passage and publication according to law. The Direct Deposit mandate shall be effective September 1, 2019.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion made by Duchemin and seconded by Conry to approve Resolution 2019-109.

ROLL CALL: Conry, Duchemin, Musick, Noone, Norris, Valle, Higgins

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2019-109
RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATIONS
NJSA 40A: 4-87

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington in the County of Warren State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2019 in the sum of \$12,000.00 which is now available from the State of New Jersey, Highland Water Protection and Planning Council

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$12,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Other Expenses – Highland Grant.

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Duchemin to approve Resolution 2019-110.

ROLL CALL: Conry, Duchemin, Musick, Noone, Norris, Valle, Higgins

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2019-110
RESOLUTION REQUESTING VOID OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE OF 16-00037 FOR BLOCK
35 LOT 28, 66 TAYLOR STREET, AND RETURN OF FUNDS PAID TO THE THIRD-PARTY
LIENHOLDER WITH THE STATUTORY INTEREST AND OTHER LEGAL CHARGES

WHEREAS, during 2015 tax sale a property identified as Block 35 Lot 28, located at 66 Taylor Street, was sold by the Borough of Washington during tax sale; and

WHEREAS, property stated above was purchased by the third-party lienholder, FWDSL and Associates LP; and

WHEREAS, at the time of tax sale property above was in legal bankruptcy proceeding and should not have been sold

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Washington in the County of Warren State of New Jersey, hereby authorizes Borough of Washington Tax Collected to void certificate 16-00037 and refund FWDSL funds in accordance with the state law.

Motion made by Noone and seconded by Conry to approve Resolution 2019-111.

ROLL CALL: Conry, Duchemin, Musick, Noone, Norris, Valle, Higgins

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2019-111

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON AS A STIGMA-FREE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with the Warren County Department of Human Services, supports the designation of **Stigma-Free Communities** in every municipality, and;

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders unanimously passed a resolution supporting the designation of Warren County as a Stigma-Free Community, and;

WHEREAS, Warren County recognizes that one in four Americans has experienced mental illness, including substance use disorders, in a given year according to the National Institute of Mental Health, and;

WHEREAS, mental health problems are more common than cancer and heart disease combined, affecting children and adults, including more than half of our Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans treated at Veteran's Administration hospitals, and;

WHEREAS, given the serious nature of this public health problem, we must continue to reach the millions who need help;

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with the disease of mental illness is identified as the primary reason individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from the disease, and;

WHEREAS, **Stigma-Free Communities** aim to inspire public interest and open dialogues about stigma, raise awareness of the disease of mental illness and create a culture wherein residents who have the disease of mental illness feel supported by their community and neighbors and feel free to seek treatment for the disease without fear of stigma and;

WHEREAS, promoting awareness that there can be no "health" without mental health will break down barriers and encourage residents of all ages to be mindful of their mental health and ask for help when needed, and;

WHEREAS, local resources are available to treat the disease of mental illness so no one resident needs to suffer alone or feel hopeless, and;

WHEREAS, establishing **Stigma-Free Communities** will raise awareness of resources and encourage residents to engage in care as soon as the need is identified so recovery can begin, hope is inspired and tragedies are avoided, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Borough of Washington recognizes the community needs and supports the efforts of the County of Warren in designating the Borough of Washington as a **Stigma-Free Community**.

Motion made by Conry and seconded by Duchemin to approve Resolution 2019-112.

ROLL CALL: Conry, Duchemin, Musick, Noone, Norris, Valle, Higgins

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2019-112
AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION CORP. OF
SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF GRAND AVE.**

WHEREAS, the Washington Borough Manager and the Borough Engineer determined that the need for the acquisition of the following goods and services; Grande Ave: and

WHEREAS, the project will consist of improvement to Grand Ave and all construction excavation item are identified in bid form; and

WHEREAS, a notice of advertisement for bid were prepared and advertised in accordance with the Local Public Contract Law; and

WHEREAS, sealed bid was open and read on Wednesday June 26, 2019 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contract Law and;

WHEREAS, Matt Hall Borough Manager and Kevin Smith PE Borough Engineer have reviewed the bids and recommend that the award of contract be made to Top Line Construction Corp. in the amount of \$1,098,097.38 as the lowest responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, Natasha Turchan Chief Finance Officer shall certify the availability of funds in the amount of \$1,098,097.38 from accounts:

04-2018-1810-0-4-0 \$1,035,511.48

04-2019-1916-0-4-191603 \$62,585.90; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington authorizes the Qualified Purchasing Agent issue the appropriate purchase order in the amount of \$1,098,097.38 to Top Line Construction Corp.

Grand Avenue Re-Cap-Kevin Smith, Engineer

Borough Engineer, Kevin Smith recapped the project going forward with Grand Avenue reconstruction. A town hall meeting was held where residents asked and voiced their concerns over the project.

Discussions of lateral replacement ensued.

VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS

Motion made by Noone seconded by Conry to pay the vouchers and claims in the amount of \$2,165,200.34 from the current fund and \$ 36,536.42 from sewer.

ROLL CALL: Conry, Duchemin, Musick, Noone, Norris, Valle, Higgins

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion carried.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilwoman Duchemin wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

Councilwoman Valle wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

Councilwoman Noone wished everyone a Happy 4th of July and reminded everyone of the dessert contest at the Farmers Market.

Councilman Musick wished everyone a Happy 4th of July and for everyone to be safe.

Councilman Norris stated he saw the parking authority employee out today. Councilman Norris thanked Susan Turner for keeping the pool running under the circumstances. Councilman Norris also thanked Councilwoman Noone for her work with the Farmers Market.

Deputy Mayor Conry stated she is working with Councilwoman Duchemin with the Senior Advisory Board and wished everyone a Happy 4th of July. Mrs. Conry also inquired about updates regarding various library issues.

RECAP

M. Hall recapped the following:

Follow up with library concerns and security cameras. Mr. Hall wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

Kevin Smith, Engineer discussed street opening permit applications from the gas company.

Mayor Higgins commented and stated the following:

- Grand Avenue is finally getting done.
- The Luke Oil gas station is up for sale.
- Thanked the Engineer, Mr. Hall and the DPW for their work.

Mayor Higgins discussed about flooding he witnessed on Washington Avenue where the water came up on the sidewalk like a river.

Mayor Higgins wished everyone a safe 4th of July. The parade and fireworks will be on Thursday. The new fire truck was received and they are very pleased with it. It will be displayed during the parade.

Mr. Hall gave an update on Ray Rice's project.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Conry seconded by Duchemin to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm.

Ayes: 7; Nays: 0
Motion Carried.

Mayor David Higgins

Laurie A. Barton, Borough Clerk